

# Dominion Presbyterian

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## Note and Comment.

After a successful tour in America, Mr. Herbert Booth, third son of Gen Booth, is about to commence work in Britain as an evangelist.

A secular journal suggests quite naturally, if rather flippantly, that if Chicago University has superseded the doxology with the college song, it will not be surprising if its next step will be to open chapel services with the college yell instead of prayer.

Men of the literary class in China are said to have spent last year \$250,000 for books and papers that teach the wisdom of Christendom; they wish to keep up with the procession which they have lately discovered. The most of this literature was of missionary origin.

Sons of a Mohammedan governor in Egypt are now receiving their education in one of the schools of the United Presbyterian Church (U. S.) in that country. British occupation and Presbyterian schools are proving good things for the land of the Pharaohs.

Such are the improved hygienic conditions under which the inhabitants of the United Kingdom live, that the rate of mortality per 1,000 has fallen from 23.3 in 1846 to 17.7 in 1900, and to 18.2 in 1902. Unfortunately there has been little change in the death rate of infants.

Lord Mountstephen has just given one million dollars to a London hospital. The St. James' Gazette, referring to his previous gifts and of Lord Strathcona, says there is the true Imperial flavor about such munificences; and Canada has as much reason to be proud of her adopted sons as England is grateful to them.

The Attorney General of the United States declares guessing contests which have become quite popular in some places to be illegal and has ordered that papers conducting or advertising them should be excluded from the mails. Did we see, not very long ago, a guessing contest in an Ottawa paper? Perhaps it was a paper in some other city.

An item has gone the round of the press stating that Professor M'Comb, who recently resigned the chair he held in Queen's college, had gone over to the Church of England. The Belfast Witness says, "we are able to state on the most reliable authority that it has no foundation in fact. Mr. M'Comb has no intention of severing his connection with the Presbyterian Church."

There are some remarkable incidents in connection with the Welsh revival as we learn from British exchanges. Elaborate preparations were made for a ball at Pontycymmer, but owing to the revival only four women attended. The secretary and several dancers were converted on the way to the ballroom, and suddenly determined to attend a prayer meeting instead.

On the 20th ult. Mrs. Donald McKeagan died at Mora, Cape Breton, N.S., at the advanced age of 89 years. She was born at Lochmaddy, North Uist, Scotland, 1815, and came to Cape Breton in 1828. She was the mother of eleven children, four sons and seven daughters; grandmother of fifty-nine; great-grandmother of thirty; all of whom survive her. She was a mother in Israel, and a devout Presbyterian.

Speaking of General Booth's work in helping to raise the sunken masses in "darkest England," the Belfast Witness says: "The Churches may learn two great lessons from the work of the Salvation Army—first, that the lowest fallen man or woman may by Christian love and care be rescued; and second, that Christ's people ought to give the fallen men and women a chance, an opportunity to amend, and do better."

The kind of liberty which is enjoyed under British rule may be judged from the fact, as stated in a recent speech, that not a single one of the 300,000,000 subjects of King Edward is in prison for treason or disloyalty, while in Russia, France and Germany thousands are either in prison or exiled for these reasons. There is no true liberty in any country in the world as that enjoyed under the British flag.

Rev. Dr. Thos. Wardrope, the veteran minister and teacher, whose name has been identified with the advancement of religious and educational work for over sixty years, came to Ottawa from Montreal to attend the 60th anniversary of Knox church. In spite of his 86 years, Dr. Wardrope is hale and hearty, and retains unimpaired the high mental gifts and graces that have made him beloved and respected by all whom he has met in his long and eventful career.

The New York Tribune gives the following sensible advice to the Republican party: "The weakness of the Republican party at present is its strength. With such an endorsement as that given at the recent election greater things may properly be expected of it than ever before. To deserve the high confidence reposed in it, it will have to do something more than 'stand pat' and enjoy the fruits of its victory." Possibly this advice is worth passing on to the Liberal party of Canada.

The Rev. Newell Dwight Hillis, pastor of Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, has cancelled all his outside engagements that he may give his time up to evangelistic effort. Before leaving for England, the Rev. W. J. Dawson, of London, assisted Dr. Hillis in a ten days' evangelistic service, that was productive of very encouraging results. These are but manifestations of a widespread spirit of evangelism that has come over the church in many quarters, and from which much is to be hoped.

Probation officer W. C. Johnson, of Kansas city, addressing an audience of several hundred boys in that city, said cigarettes

caused nearly all the downfalls among youths. In nearly every case where a boy breaks into a store the first thing he steals is tobacco. "Out of 450 boys who have been taken into the Juvenile Court," said Mr. Johnson, "ninety-five per cent were cigarette smokers, I never saw a boy who played hockey from school but he did not also smoke cigarettes. This habit is the beginning of crime."

The Canadian Baptist, in a recent issue, makes a strong protest against the action of the Ontario government in donating \$10,000 to assist in equipping Ottawa university, a Roman Catholic college, which suffered a great loss from fire a year or so ago. The Baptist organ objects on the principle that denominational institutions should not be given state aid. It claims the Ontario government has done an unwarranted and unwise thing in donating the people's money to an institution that exists for religious and denominational purposes.

Here is what the late Senator Hoar, of Massachusetts, not many years ago, said about "Old England." "I have visited Europe six times. On each occasion I devoted the largest part of my time to Great Britain. The desire to see England again has increased with every visit. Certainly there is nothing like England, and there never has been anything like England in the world. Her wonderful history, her wonderful literature, the beauty of her architecture, the historic and poetic associations which cluster about every street and river and mountain and valley, her vigorous life, the sweetness and beauty of her women, the superb manhood of her men, her navy, her gracious hospitality, her courage and her lofty pride, make up a combination never equalled in the world." No comment is needed.

The following story is told by a minister from Australia who some years ago visited Fiji, illustrative of the family prayer habit among the converted Fijians: "I was taking tea with your missionary and his wife in the lone island of Kandavu, in the midst of 10,000 Fijians. As we were at tea the bell rang; the missionary said, 'That is the signal for family worship. Now listen. You will hear the drum beat.' And immediately they began to echo to each other around the shores of that southern sea. The missionary said, 'There are 10,000 people on these islands, and I do not know of a single house in which there will not be family worship in the course of half an hour from this time.' Noting the incident the Herald and Presbyter says: 'If there was such a family altar in every nominally Christian home in this country, from which the incense of prayer ascended daily to God, would he not pour us out a blessing that there would not be room enough to receive it?' Unfortunately it is greatly to be feared that the family altar, in a great many places in professedly Christian countries, is gradually disappearing."